

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

1-8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) A rucksack comprising a bag having a back panel ~~and, among other things,~~ a belt assembly and a rigid frame secured to the back panel and the belt assembly, wherein the bottom portion of the rigid frame has a V-shaped configuration with ~~an~~ furthest-apart edges having an angle α at the apex, and in its middle and rear portion, the belt assembly includes an upwardly open pocket having a V-shaped configuration with an inside side edge of angle β at the apex, where β is greater than α , such that said pocket is suitable for serving as a housing for receiving the V-shaped bottom portion of the frame while allowing the belt assembly to pivot angularly to some extent relative to the remainder of the rucksack, the inside edges of the upwardly open pocket coming into abutment against the furthest-apart edges of the bottom portion of the rigid frame in order to prevent pivoting beyond an angle γ equal to $(\beta-2)/2$.

10. (Previously Presented) A rucksack according to claim 9, wherein the rigid frame, at least in its V-shaped bottom portion, is constituted by a flat bar of small thickness, and the pocket is a flat pocket applied to the rear face of the belt assembly, in particular by stitching.

11. (Previously Presented) A rucksack according to claim 10, wherein the bottom end of the frame, forming the V-shaped point presents a rounded shape, and the bottom of the pocket includes, in register with said point, a zone that is reinforced.

12. (Previously Presented) A rucksack according to claim 9, wherein the middle portion of the belt assembly includes a V-shaped stiffener plate constituting the inside wall of the pocket, said stiffener plate preferably presenting a surface state with a low

coefficient of friction relative to the material constituting the V-shaped bottom portion of the frame.

13. (Previously Presented) A rucksack according to claim 9, which includes releasable fastener means for fastening the belt assembly to the back of the rucksack or to the frame, and serving, in the inactive position, to allow the bottom portion of the frame to be inserted into the V-shaped pocket assembly to the back or to the frame of the rucksack, while not impeding the capacity for the belt assembly to pivot angularly.

14. (Previously Presented) A rucksack according to claim 13, wherein the fastening means comprises a flexible strip having one end secured, in particular by stitching, to the bottom edge of the back of the rucksack in a middle portion thereof and that can be secured in releasable manner, in particular by self-gripping means of the hook and loop type, to the front face of the belt assembly after the bottom portion of the frame has been placed in the V-shaped pocket.

15. (Previously Presented) A rucksack according to claim 9, which includes two sets of padding means, and in particular:

a first set constituted by two side pads of the belt assembly disposed on either side of the front wall of the V-shaped pocket, and in particular on either side of its stiffener plate, the inside edges of the two side pads defining a substantially V-shaped space; and

a second set constituted by a central pad that is substantially V-shaped, with its bottom portion secured, in particular by stitches, to the bottom edge of the back of the rucksack, said central pad being suitable for engaging in the V-shaped space between the two side pads and including releasable fastener means, in particular self-gripping means, for securing it to the back of the rucksack, in such a manner that during angular pivoting of the belt assembly, the contacting zones of the side pad and of the central pad flatten against each other.

16. (Currently Amended) A rucksack according to claim 15, wherein the means for ~~fastening~~ ~~passing~~ the central pad ~~comprise~~ ~~comprises~~ a longitudinal strip extending said central pad and a downwardly-open longitudinal sheath secured to the back of the rucksack and suitable

for receiving the longitudinal strip which can be secured releasably to one of the inside faces of said sheath, in particular by self-gripping means.

17. (Previously Presented) A rucksack according to claim 10, wherein the middle portion of the belt assembly includes a V-shaped stiffener plate constituting the inside wall of the pocket, said stiffener plate preferably presenting a surface state with a low coefficient of friction relative to the material constituting the V-shaped bottom portion of the frame.

18. (Previously Presented) A rucksack according to claim 11, wherein the middle portion of the belt assembly includes a V-shaped stiffener plate constituting the inside wall of the pocket, said stiffener plate preferably presenting a surface state with a low coefficient of friction relative to the material constituting the V-shaped bottom portion of the frame.

19. (Previously Presented) A rucksack according to claim 10, which includes releasable fastener means for fastening the belt assembly to the back of the rucksack or to the frame, and serving, in the inactive position, to allow the bottom portion of the frame to be inserted into the V-shaped pocket assembly to the back or to the frame of the rucksack, while not impeding the capacity for the belt assembly to pivot angularly.

20. (Previously Presented) A rucksack according to claim 11, which includes releasable fastener means for fastening the belt assembly to the back of the rucksack or to the frame, and serving, in the inactive position, to allow the bottom portion of the frame to be inserted into the V-shaped pocket assembly to the back or to the frame of the rucksack, while not impeding the capacity for the belt assembly to pivot angularly.

21. (Previously Presented) A rucksack according to claim 12, which includes releasable fastener means for fastening the belt assembly to the back of the rucksack or to the frame, and serving, in the inactive position, to allow the bottom portion of the frame to be inserted into the V-shaped pocket assembly to the back or to the frame of the rucksack, while not impeding the capacity for the belt assembly to pivot angularly.

22. (Previously Presented) A rucksack according to claim 19, wherein the fastening means comprises a flexible strip having one end secured, in particular by stitching, to the bottom edge of the back of the rucksack in a middle portion thereof and that can be secured in releasable manner, in particular by self-gripping means of the hook and loop type, to the front face of the belt assembly after the bottom portion of the frame has been placed in the V-shaped pocket.

23. (Previously Presented) A rucksack according to claim 20, wherein the fastening means comprises a flexible strip having one end secured, in particular by stitching, to the bottom edge of the back of the rucksack in a middle portion thereof and that can be secured in releasable manner, in particular by self-gripping means of the hook and loop type, to the front face of the belt assembly after the bottom portion of the frame has been placed in the V-shaped pocket.

24. (Previously Presented) A rucksack according to claim 21, wherein the fastening means comprises a flexible strip having one end secured, in particular by stitching, to the bottom edge of the back of the rucksack in a middle portion thereof and that can be secured in releasable manner, in particular by self-gripping means of the hook and loop type, to the front face of the belt assembly after the bottom portion of the frame has been placed in the V-shaped pocket.

25. (Previously Presented) A rucksack according to claim 10, which includes two sets of padding means, and in particular:

a first set constituted by two side pads of the belt assembly disposed on either side of the front wall of the V-shaped pocket, and in particular on either side of its stiffener plate, the inside edges of the two side pads defining a substantially V-shaped space; and

a second set constituted by a central pad that is substantially V-shaped, with its bottom portion secured, in particular by stitches, to the bottom edge of the back of the rucksack, said central pad being suitable for engaging in the V-shaped space between the two side pads and including releasable fastener means, in particular self-gripping means, for securing it to the back of the rucksack, in such a manner that during angular pivoting of the belt assembly, the contacting zones of the side pad and of the central pad flatten against each other.

26. (Previously Presented) A rucksack according to claim 11, which includes two sets of padding means, and in particular:

a first set constituted by two side pads of the belt assembly disposed on either side of the front wall of the V-shaped pocket, and in particular on either side of its stiffener plate, the inside edges of the two side pads defining a substantially V-shaped space; and

a second set constituted by a central pad that is substantially V-shaped, with its bottom portion secured, in particular by stitches, to the bottom edge of the back of the rucksack, said central pad being suitable for engaging in the V-shaped space between the two side pads and including releasable fastener means, in particular self-gripping means, for securing it to the back of the rucksack, in such a manner that during angular pivoting of the belt assembly, the contacting zones of the side pad and of the central pad flatten against each other.

27. (Previously Presented) A rucksack according to claim 12, which includes two sets of padding means, and in particular:

a first set constituted by two side pads of the belt assembly disposed on either side of the front wall of the V-shaped pocket, and in particular on either side of its stiffener plate, the inside edges of the two side pads defining a substantially V-shaped space; and

a second set constituted by a central pad that is substantially V-shaped, with its bottom portion secured, in particular by stitches, to the bottom edge of the back of the rucksack, said central pad being suitable for engaging in the V-shaped space between the two side pads and including releasable fastener means, in particular self-gripping means, for securing it to the back of the rucksack, in such a manner that during angular pivoting of the belt assembly, the contacting zones of the side pad and of the central pad flatten against each other.

28. (Previously Presented) A rucksack according to claim 13, which includes two sets of padding means, and in particular:

a first set constituted by two side pads of the belt assembly disposed on either side of the front wall of the V-shaped pocket, and in particular on either side of its stiffener plate, the inside edges of the two side pads defining a substantially V-shaped space; and

a second set constituted by a central pad that is substantially V-shaped, with its bottom portion secured, in particular by stitches, to the bottom edge of the back of the rucksack, said

central pad being suitable for engaging in the V-shaped space between the two side pads and including releasable fastener means, in particular self-gripping means, for securing it to the back of the rucksack, in such a manner that during angular pivoting of the belt assembly, the contacting zones of the side pad and of the central pad flatten against each other.